

I am writing to you today as a current satellite TV subscriber who would like to add my voice of support to the pending merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV. The combination of these two satellite providers will provide numerous benefits to consumers like me, including more choices in channels, programming, broadband and new television technologies.

By merging, the combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable television and can offer more programming choices and, most importantly, all local TV channels in every market in the U.S. By providing local TV channels everywhere, this merger will make satellite television a strong alternative to cable in our community. Throughout the country, people will now be able to turn to satellite TV to access their local news, weather and community information, in addition to a comprehensive package of national video programming. Lexington, KY is not a big enough TV market to currently receive local programming through the dish, but with the merger I understand smaller markets like Lexington will be able to be served. The expense for local channels from the local cable company (Insight) is ridiculous. They refused to offer me a package of just the basic networks. They only offered me an expensive package that would require me to purchase more equipment. I prefer to watch all my TV programming on the satellite dish. The cable company charges taxes and fees that satellite providers do not, but I wouldn't mind paying these taxes to satellite if they offered local channels also. Right now, the cable company has an unfair advantage. A merger of satellite companies would level the playing field.

In the interest of improving our access to competitive television, I urge you to lend your support to this merger.

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